

TRITURUS (GYRINOPHILUS) LUTESCENS RAFINESQUE, 1832
(AMPHIBIA, CAUDATA): PROPOSED SUPPRESSION UNDER THE
PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1516

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The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *lutescens* Rafinesque, 1832 (*Atlantic Journ. 1(3) : 121*) as published in the combination *Triturus lutescens*, and to secure that the name *duryi* Weller, 1930 (*Proc. Jr. Soc. Nat. Sci. Cincinnati 1(5-6)*) as published in the combination *Pseudotriton duryi*, shall be the subspecific name of the form currently known as *Gyrinophilus porphyriticus duryi*.

2. The name *lutescens*, as proposed in 1832 by Rafinesque in the combination *Triturus lutescens*, remained unused until 1942. Mittleman (1942, *Proc. New England Zool. Club 20 : 25-42*), as first reviser, applied the name *lutescens*, in the combination *Gyrinophilus lutescens*, to a population that he considered to be distinct from *Gyrinophilus porphyriticus duryi* (Weller, 1930). Mittleman characterized *Gyrinophilus lutescens* as being a neotenic, cave-adapted species, in contrast to the metamorphosing, epigean *Gyrinophilus porphyriticus duryi*.

3. The conditions of Rafinesque's description of *Triturus lutescens*, by a process of elimination, can apply only to the form currently known as *Gyrinophilus porphyriticus duryi*.

4. Recent investigations by Newcomer (1961, *The ASB Bull. 8(2) : 21*) and by myself in connection with a monographic study of the genus *Gyrinophilus*, have shown that *Gyrinophilus lutescens* (Rafinesque, 1832) was applied by Mittleman to larvae of *Gyrinophilus porphyriticus duryi* (Weller, 1930). Therefore, the name *lutescens*, as used in the combination *Triturus lutescens* Rafinesque, 1832, is a senior synonym of the name *duryi*, as used in the combination *Pseudotriton duryi* Weller, 1930.

5. Although the literature dealing with the form currently known as *Gyrinophilus porphyriticus duryi* (Weller, 1930) is not extensive (20 published references have been found), all but four used either *Gyrinophilus porphyriticus duryi* or *Gyrinophilus duryi*. Three of the references using *Gyrinophilus lutescens* are lists only, and the fourth is Mittleman's article applying the name unknowingly to larval *Gyrinophilus porphyriticus duryi*. All four authors using the combination *Gyrinophilus lutescens* indicated that it applied to a supposedly valid (although actually invalid) taxon distinct from *Gyrinophilus porphyriticus duryi*.

6. As the combination *Gyrinophilus porphyriticus duryi* (or *Gyrinophilus duryi*) has been used consistently in publications since 1930, and as the long obscure *lutescens* Rafinesque, 1832, as published in the binomen *Triturus lutescens*, has been used only a few times in the literature since 1942 (and in these cases was applied to a taxon regarded to be distinct from *Gyrinophilus*

porphyriticus duryi), the replacement of *duryi* by *lutescens* for the sake of priority would not be in the interests of stability in nomenclature, and would result in considerable confusion.

7. For the reasons noted in the present application, I ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :

- (a) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *lutescens* Rafinesque, as published in the combination *Triturus lutescens*, for the purposes of the Law of Priority, but not for the purposes of the Law of Homonymy;
- (b) to place the specific name *duryi* Weller, 1930, as published in the combination *Pseudotriton duryi*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (c) to place the name *lutescens* Rafinesque, 1832, as published in the combination *Triturus lutescens* (suppressed under the plenary powers in (a) above) on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.